

### **Remarks/Arguments**

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

#### **Specification**

The title is objected to as not descriptive. In response, the title is amended to "Image Forming Apparatus that Adjusts Operating Conditions based on a Density Detection Result of a Patch Image", which is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

#### **Claim Status**

Claims 1-13 were presented. Claims 1, 6, 7, 9 and 10 are amended. Claims 8 and 13 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 1-7 and 9-12 are now pending.

#### **Allowable Subject Matter**

Claim 8, which depends directly from claim 1, is indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claim 1 is amended to include all limitations of claim 8, and claim 8 is canceled without prejudice. Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1. Claim 9 is amended to depend from claim 1 rather than from claim 8. Accordingly, claims 1-7 and 9 are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 10, which depends directly from claim 1, is amended to include all limitations of claim 1. Claims 11 and 12 depend from claim 10. Accordingly, claims 10-12 are now in condition for allowance.

#### **Claim Objections**

The Action objects to claim 6 on the grounds that the phrase "process of the adjusting operation triggered by the timing information is different from that of the adjusting operation which is performed at other timings" is unclear. In response, this phrase is rewritten as "process of the adjusting operation triggered by the timing information is different than if the adjusting operation were performed at a different timing".

Similarly, the Action objects to claim 7 on the grounds that the phrase "the adjusting operation which is triggered by the timing information than the operation process that is performed at other timings" is unclear. In response, this phrase is

rewritten as "the adjusting operation which is triggered by the timing information than if the operation process were performed at a different timing".

### **Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102**

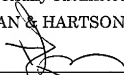
Claims 1-7 and 13 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Nakazato (JP 2001-154429). In response, as discussed above, claim 1 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 8, and claims 2-7 depend from claim 8. Claim 13 is canceled without prejudice, rendering its rejection moot. Thus, the rejections under 35 USC 102 should be withdrawn.

### **Conclusion**

This application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to resolve any issues that remain after consideration and entry of this reply. Any fees due with this response may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,  
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

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By:   
Troy M. Schmelzer  
Registration No. 36,667  
Attorney for Applicant(s)

1999 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1400  
Los Angeles, California 90067  
Phone: 310-785-4600  
Fax: 310-785-4601